

SB 891 (Lowenthal)

School Construction Reform

(As amended May 23, 2011)

THIS BILL

SB 891 seeks to improve the construction of California public schools by streamlining the state process. The legislation will improve coordination between state agencies.

BACKGROUND

In 1998 California faced a statewide classroom shortage in response the legislature passed SB 50 (Greene, 1998) and placed Proposition 1A on the ballot. Proposition 1A provided school districts with state matching dollars for new construction and the modernization of older schools. SB 50 created the current system for distributing state matching dollars and the approval process for school construction and modernization.

After 12 years of a huge school construction boom in California stakeholders are calling for streamlining reforms in the school constructions process. Currently, school districts must go through the California Department of Education, Department of Toxic Substance Control, Division of State Architect and finally the Office of Public School Construction. In 2010 the stakeholders and the four state departments convened the California Public School Construction Expert Working Group to review the school construction process. The Expert Working Group made several recommendations to streamline the school construction process.

Additionally, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Torlakson has convened the Schools of the Future Initiative to discuss what a 21st Century school will encompass and smarter system for building those schools.

This bill takes several suggestions from both the Expert Working Group and the School of the Future Initiative to streamline school construction for 21st Century Schools.

SUPPORT

Superintendent of Public Instruction

OPPOSITION

None on file

STATUS

Senate Appropriations Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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